

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

No. _____

Meeting Date: May 21, 2013

1 **To: THE HONORABLE DAN SULLIVAN**
2 **ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

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4 **From: ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION**

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6 **Subject: Bi-annual Anchorage Park Foundation Board Report on Park**
7 **Investments**

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9 2013 marks the ninth summer construction and volunteer work season for the
10 Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), and it will be the busiest and most efficient yet.
11 APF utilizes all varieties of private and public funding sources and volunteer hours
12 to accomplish park improvements and fund recreation opportunities – this year APF
13 will fund 35 park improvement projects. APF meets donor and volunteer needs by
14 leveraging funds through this unique public-private partnership. We hope you agree
15 that APF’s ability to engage the community in meaningful ways, inspire
16 nontraditional partnerships, stretch a dollar, attract grants and introduce new donors
17 to projects, **produces park and trail results.**

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19 APF works closely with municipal staff to implement projects. The board
20 appreciates the support of the Anchorage Assembly and the Municipality of
21 Anchorage staff as we work to seek supplemental resources and community
22 support for parks, trails, and recreation programs. We submit that **our joint**
23 **successes have led to an increase in community ownership of our system of**
24 **parks and trails.**

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26 APF will sponsor **35 construction projects for summer 2013** between our
27 neighborhood parks, challenge grants, *Youth Employment in Parks* projects, and
28 other special community park projects. Included in this suite of projects are: **six**
29 **playground installations**, resurfacing seven miles of the **Tony Knowles Coastal**
30 **Trail**, the **Veterans Memorial Renovation**, and reconstruction of the **Mulcahy**
31 **Rinks** with the Scotty Gomez Foundation.

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33 APF fundraising for capital projects has resulted in private, federal, and state
34 investments, plus a tremendous amount of volunteer support. Since its inception,
35 APF has raised more than \$23.4 million for Anchorage Parks. APF has:

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- 38 • raised \$8,431,694 in **private dollars**;
 - 39 • leveraged \$5,485,634 in **volunteer time and materials**;
 - 40 • secured an additional \$2,039,084 in **Rasmuson Foundation** challenge grants (pledged funding if we meet their specified challenges);

- secured \$6,720,789 in state legislative funding for reimbursement;
- and secured \$676,924 in Federal funding for reimbursement.

APF is also the named manager of more than \$805,000 for neighborhood parks in the 2013 state capital budget currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

APF bridges a gap in government capacity by providing private funders options for giving, with particular focus on enhancing and taking better care of our **neighborhood parks**. Volunteers in 2008 and 2011 completed park assessments that gave APF information for fix-it lists and park report cards. Using the volunteer identified park improvements, APF worked with the Parks and Recreation Department and volunteers to substantially renovate 14 parks in 2009, 8 parks in 2010, 7 parks in 2011, and 8 in 2012. We have 5 scheduled this summer. You are invited to join us and volunteer with your constituents for these projects, each scheduled on Saturdays from 9am-noon:

- Elderberry Park – June 29th, Downtown
- Scenic Park – July 13th, Scenic Foothills
- Fairview Lions Park – July 20th, Fairview
- Arctic Benson Park – July 27th, Spenard
- Campbell Park – August 3rd, Tudor/Lake Otis Area

APF recently awarded 20 **Challenge Grants** to groups committed to making capital improvements to parks in 2013 and 2014. Volunteers will match their grants with cash, volunteer hours, materials, or a combination. For more information on any of these exciting projects see www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org. Projects include a dog park, tennis courts, community gardens, and neighborhood parks.

Youth Employment in Parks starts its seventh season of parks and recreation work this June. Park improvement projects include:

- Valley of the Moon Park – Stream Restoration
- Coastal Trail – Trail Clearing, Vegetation Maintenance
- Beaver Pond Trail – Girdwood
- William B Lyons Park – Landscaping
- Far North Bicentennial Park – Trail Rehabilitation
- Campbell Creek Estuary – New Trail Construction

Teens will also staff special summer events such as:

- June 8th, National Get Outdoors Day
- August 2nd, YEP Celebration: Cuddy Family Midtown Park

Also of note, APF is proud to be a champion for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's initiative to make Anchorage the #1 city in America to "**Live.Work.Play.**" by 2025. Play is important to thriving cities, and Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities are a big part of what this city offers residents.

To highlight the added value the municipality receives from this nonprofit venture, the board hereby submits this bi-annual report on the cumulative financial

1 investments in Anchorage Parks and Recreation Programs. The board believes
2 strongly that these investments are significant in monetary and social value, and
3 improve municipal assets. The board acknowledges the Anchorage Assembly as
4 the elected body charged with maintaining these beloved public lands, and looks
5 forward to using this bi-annual report as a means to communicate its contributions
6 the Municipality of Anchorage.

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8 Please stay tuned for APF events all summer, featuring constituents, donors, park
9 volunteers and advocates. APF will host ribbon cuttings, volunteer days,
10 groundbreaking ceremonies, demolition events, opening ceremonies, fundraisers,
11 and park planning meetings. You will be welcome to participate, and celebrate
12 park and trail stewardship.

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14 For more information on the Anchorage Park Foundation initiatives see
15 www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org or call Beth Nordlund at 274-1004.

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18 Prepared by: Beth Nordlund, APF Executive Director
19 Respectfully submitted: Eleanor Andrews, Bill Bittner, Matt Carle, Rick Fox,
20 Ernie Hall, Joelle Hall, Mark Kroloff, David Wight
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23 **Attached: APF 2013 Park and Trail Project Map**

24 *Each project represents a different way APF is connecting our community. We are*
25 *bringing our diverse population together for projects they care about. From Hillside*
26 *Trails to Mountain View Gardens to neighborhood swing sets, APF has a project*
27 *close to your heart. APF serves as an organizing nonprofit that fosters innovation,*
28 *reaches out to inspire and fund nontraditional partnerships, and produces park and*
29 *trail results.*
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